REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 have been canceled. Claims 17-61 are now pending in this application. Cancellation of claims 1-16 is without prejudice and should not be taken to mean that Applicant agrees with the Examiner. Applicant reserves the right to present these claims in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

Claims 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,806,890 to Audleman. As previously mentioned, claims 15-16 have been canceled. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

Claims 17-61 are believed to be distinguishable from Audleman. Namely, the present invention is directed to a method, apparatus and computer readable medium containing instructions for constructing a rules based application. The rules based application can be applied to any problem in any industry. For example, in the present invention as described in independent claims 17, 32, and 47, a rules based application is created by a user from program-creation wizards. When executed, the rules based application extracts pre-existing information from a local data source specified by the user (e.g., a spreadsheet file) and uses the extracted pre-existing information to extract externally provided information (e.g., data from a web page). The pre-existing information and the externally provided information are used to generate a final output (e.g., a new or updated spreadsheet with new or updated information collected from the web page). In contrast, Audleman is restricted to a specific business solution to a specific business problem, i.e., managing multiple computer systems. Further, Audleman does not extract pre-existing information from

a local data source in order to extract externally provided data. Rather, and as shown in Fig. 4A of Audleman, a user manually inputs the information (*e.g.*, manually enters the transaction names) rather than extracting pre-existing information from a local data source (*e.g.*, extracting items such as transaction names from a preexisting data source such as a spreadsheet).

In another embodiment, and as described in claims 27, 42, and 57, a business rules based application is constructed by providing a set of wizards. A user select a wizard to specify a number of action to be executed. The user also selects a verb from a set of verbs provided to the user to define the action performed by the application. The actions can be arranged in a user-specified hierarchical order to set the order of execution. Audleman does not allow such a user-specified hierarchical order. Rather, Audleman provides single level comparisons.

Accordingly, independent claims 17, 27, 32, 42, 47, and 57 are believed to be distinguishable from Audleman. Claims 18-26, 28-31, 33-41, 43-46, 48-56, and 58-61, depend from one of the independent claims, and are thus also believed to be distinguishable from Audleman for at least the reasons previously described as well as being patentable on their own merit.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.
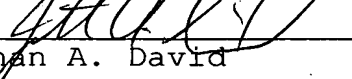
If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: June 9, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

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14